

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3521

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TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, ILO AIFLD, BR
SUBJECT: ICFTU/CRIT VISIT TO BRAZIL

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 3145, (B) SAO PAULO 1253 (NOTAL)

FOLG CABLE PREPARED BY AMCONSUL SAO PAULO:

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE VISIT OF ICFTU REPRESENTATIVE FRISO AND ORIT
SECRETARY GENERAL DEL PINTO TO BRAZIL WAS USEFUL AS IT REMINDED THE
BRAZILIANS OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR'S ATTITUDE TOWARD GOVERNMENT-
TIED LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. IT ALSO PROVIDED A LONG OVERDUE EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS' THREE AFFILIATED
CONFEDERATIONS. CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BANK WORKERS MAY LEAD
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TO AN EVENTUAL AFFILIATION. THE VISITORS DID NOT ENCOURAGE AFFILIATION

BY THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION AT THIS TIME. THE VISIT
STRENGTHENED ORIT'S POSITION IN BRAZIL AND REMINDED THE VISITORS
THERE ARE STILL VALID LABOR LEADERS HERE WITH WHOM THEY CAN WORK.
END SUMMARY.

1. ENZO FRISO, LATIN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AND JUAN JOSE DEL PINO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (ORIT) VISITED BRAZIL APRIL 13-21 AS THE LAST STOP ON SIX-COUNTRY, MONTH-LONG TRIP THROUGH SOUTH AMERICA.

2. FRISO COMMENTS ON TRIP: IN ASSESSMENT OF JORNEY WITH LABATT APRIL 20, FRISO STATED PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF THE CRISES SEVERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA ARE FEARING. FRISO LAMENTED THAT IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THE CURRENT MILITARY REGIMES WILL BE REPLACED BY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS. THIS IS BECAUSE THE LIKELY LEADERS LACK THE WILL AND CAPACITY TO TAKE THE UNPOPULAR MEASURES REQUIRED TO OVERCOME THE TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE CITED THE TENDENCY OF SOME DEMOCRATIC LEADERS HE HAD MET TO LOOK TO THE MILITARY TO PROVIDE NECESSARY REFORMS AND CONTROLS. FOR EXAMPLE, PERU'S HAYA DE LA TORRE TOLD HIM "THE MILITARY MADE THE MESS, LET THEM CLEAN IT UP."

3. ATTITUDES TOWARD BRAZILIAN LABOR: FRISO/DEL PINO BOTH STATED THE VISIT GAVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LONG OVERDUE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH LOCAL AFFILIATES. THEY COMMENTED THAT TWO OF THEIR THREE AFFILIATED CONFEDERATIONS, I.E., THE COMMUNICATIONS

WORKERS (CONTOP) AND THE LAND TRANSPORT WORKERS (CNTTT) WERE HOLDING "APPROPRIATE AND DIGNIFIED" POSITIONS RELATIVE TO THE GOVERNMENT. THEY COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE AIFLD AND LABOR CONFIDENTIAL

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CULTURAL INSTITUTE OPERATIONS.

4. RELATIONS WITH THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION: ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT GROUPS WITHIN ARY CAMPISTA'S CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS (CNTI) WHO OPPOSE CAMPISTA'S LEADERSHIP -- NOTABLY THE SAO PAULO CITY METALWORKERS UNION -- THEY DID NOT LOOK FAVORABLY ON CNTI AFFILIATION IN THE NEAR TERM. THE CONFEDERATIONS'S WAS CONSIDERED TOO CLOSELY GOVERNMENT ALIGNED. THEY DISCOUNTED REPORTS THAT SOME SAO PAULO METALWORKERS MIGHT STAGE A WALOUT FROM THE CNTI NATINAL CONGRESS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN JUNE.

5. RELATIONS WITH THE COMMERCIAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION: BOTH VISITORS WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF COMMERCIAL WORKERS (CNTC), WHICH THEY CHARACTERIZED PRIVATELY AS "GOVERNMENT LACKYS." FRISO WAS PREPARED TO DIS-AFFILIATE THE CNTC FROM THE ICFTU BUT WAS DISSUADED WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT, BECAUSE OF PERSONAL INTERRELATIONSHIPS, SUCH ACTION WOULD ENDANGER THE SUBSEQUENT POSSIBLE AFFILIATION OF THE BANK WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CONTEC). AT A CNTC DINNER

OFFERED FOR THE VISITORS IN RIO APRIL 19 IT WAS READILY APPARENT THAT THENFRISO/CNTC DISENCHANTMENT WAS MUTUAL. DEL PINO MADE A GALLANT EFFORT IN HIS AFTER-DINNER REMARKS TO FIND COMMON GROUND.

6. RELATIONS WITH THE BANK WORKERS (CONTEC): FRISO AND DEL PINO HAD LONG TALKS WITH CONTEC LEADERS WILSON GOMES DE MOURA AND LAERCIO FIGUEIREDO PEREIRA. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON OVERALL ATTITUDES; THE SUBJECT OF FORMAL AFFILIATION WAS NOT BROACHED BUT IT IS CONSIDERED A FUTURE POSSIBILITY.

7. PLACEMENT OF ORIT REPRESENTATIVE IN BRAZIL: DEL PINO TOLD LABATT HE WISHED TO PLACE A FULL TIME ORIT REPRESENTATIVE IN BRAZIL BUT THAT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FIND A SUITABLY QUALIFIED NON-BRAZILIAN. FRISO STATED THAT THE ICFTU/ORIT WOULD DIRECTLY PAY THE COSTS OF ANY ORIT DELEGATE ASSIGNED TO BRAZIL AS IT WAS ICFTU POLICY NOT TO ACCEPT GOVERNMENTAL SUBSIDIES
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FOR SALARIES OF REGIONAL STAFF PERSONNEL.

8. RESULTS OF THE VISIT: THE VISIT STRENGTHENED BOTH ORIT'S AND THE ICFTU'S IMAGE. DEL PINO CAME ACROSS AS A SERIOUS, INTELLIGENT PERSONALITY OF DEPTH, IN COMPARISON WITH THE MORE FORCEFUL, TALKATIVE FRISO. (THERE WERE INSTANCES WHEN DEL PINO SEEMED TO CHAFF AT HIS COMPANION'S CONTINUAL DOMINANCE OF CONVERSATIONS.) THE JOINT VISIT WAS ALSO USEFUL IN DEMONSTRATING ORIT'S INTERNATIONAL TIES AND THAT IT IS NOT SIMPLY A CREATION OF THE AFL-CIO.

9. COMMENT: THE VISIT WAS USEFUL IN RESTATING INTERNATIONAL LABOR'S POSITION IN BRAZIL. ALTHOUGH, IN MANY INSTANCES, MEETINGS DID NOT LEAD TO AGREEMENT, AT LEAST THERE IS A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES. THE VISITORS LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT ALTHOUGH THE BRAZILIAN LABOR IS DOMINATED BY GOVERNMENT SYCOPHANTS, THERE ARE STILL A GREAT NUMBER OF VALID LEADERS WITH WHOM TO WORK.
JOHNSON

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